

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 010165

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 010165

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, IN

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE

1. IN CASE THE PRESS GETS WIND OF JANUARY 15 SESSION
WITH CHAVAN, WE HAVE PREPARED FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WHICH
WE ARE PROVIDING TO DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WHICH EMBASSY
SHOULD ALSO USE IN REPLYING TO QUERIES:

2. Q: WHY DID SAXBE INTERRUPT HIS TRAVELS TO SEE FOREIGN
MINISTER CHAVAN JANUARY 15?

A: THE AMBASSADOR HAD SOME BILATERAL MATTERS
TO DISCUSS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. BEFORE LEAVING
DELHI HE HAD INDICATED AN INTEREST IN SEEING CHAVAN AND
NATURALLY RETURNED WHEN THE APPOINTMENT WAS ARRANGED.

3. Q: WHAT ARE THESE MATTERS OF BILATERAL INTEREST?

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 010165

A: I CANNOT GO INTO DETAILS ABOUT THE DISCUSSION, BUT

OF COURSE THEY COVERED THE WHOLE RANGE OF INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

4. Q: DID SAXBE RAISE MRS. GANDHI'S RECENT ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES?

A: I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF THE TALKS. HOWEVER, I THINK YOU CAN ASSUME THAT THIS SUBJECT CAME UP.

5. IF PRESSED: Q: WELL, DID SAXBE PROTEST HER ATTACKS?

A: I SAID I AM NOT GETTING INTO THE DETAILS ABOUT THE TALKS. YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT WE HAVE STRONGLY PROTESTED MRS. GANDHI'S STATEMENTS PREVIOUSLY, BOTH IN DELHI AND IN WASHINGTON.

6. Q: HOW DO WE VIEW RELATIONS NOW?

A: AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING MATURE AND STABLE RELATIONS WITH INDIA ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY AND MUTUAL INTEREST. WE REMAIN INTERESTED IN BETTER RELATIONS, BUT THIS MUST BE A TWO-WAY STREET. KISSINGER

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